

Bike/Walk Midland: Using the Midland Bicycle Route Network

The Midland bicycle route network (see: http://www.midland-mi.org/government/departments/planning/planning/CityMap_NonMotorizedTrails.pdf) is a combination of designated bike routes, bike lanes, and separated paths.

On the network map, the “green routes” are on low traffic streets and are marked with signs and pavement markers. These routes are ideal for family rides around town and connect to most of the schools, business areas, churches, parks, and other significant destinations in Midland. At every point where riders need to make a turn to follow the route, there is a sign and directional arrow. Additional signs are placed at some street crossings and at intervals on long straight stretches. These routes were completed in the summer of 2011.

The “orange routes” are bike lanes or marked with shared lane markers (Sharrows). These are on higher traffic streets and the bike lane or Sharrow markers provide additional guidance to riders and car drivers so that everyone can safely navigate these busier streets with a mix of bicycles and cars. These routes provide complete connections across town to additional business, school, community, park, and church locations. The first bike lanes are proposed for 2012.

The route map also shows Midland’s current and proposed separated paths. The Pere Marquette Rail trail and the “Grand Curve” path form a separated path along the southern edge of Midland. In the future local foundation and state grants will be sought to complete a path along the eastern and northern edges of town to provide a walking, skating, and bicycling route around Midland’s perimeter.

Not every destination in Midland is directly on one of these routes, but nearly all can be easily accessed with short side trips. When you want to get somewhere in Midland by bicycle, look at the route map and find your destination. You will find a bike route that takes you from very near where you live to very close by your desired location.

For more information: <http://www.midland-mi.org/government/departments/planning/Planning/NMTCommittee.htm>